

The Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) represent knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) that tell the difference between each grade level. Students are responsible for KSAs at the previous grade(s) and Achievement Level(s). These assessment ALDs are not inclusive of all knowledge, skills, and abilities at each grade level.

## **Grade 8 Mathematics**

### **Exceeds Standard**

Students at the Exceeds Standard level in mathematics demonstrate a more complete understanding of how to solve and justify mathematical and practical problems.

Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Justify how the manipulation of a value of one variable effects a change in the outcome.
- Verify the scale factor used in a dilation.
- Analyze measures of data distribution to draw conclusions.

### **Meets Standard**

Students at the Meets Standard level in mathematics demonstrate the application and use of models and tools to solve mathematical and practical situations. Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Translate a written description, a tabular graphic, and/or algebraic representation.
- Apply a dilation of a figure and describe the transformation using the coordinate system.
- Apply appropriate measures of data distribution.

### **Approaching Standard**

Students at the Approaching Standard level in mathematics demonstrate confidence with using concrete resources (tools). Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Identify a written description from a tabular representation.
- Identify a transformation on a coordinate grid.
- Read data, including box-and-whisker plots.

### **Emergent/Developing**

Students at the Emergent/Developing level find mathematics to be challenging.

Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Identify a tabular representation of a written description.
- Graph the solution to simple linear equations.

## **Grade 8 Reading**

### **Exceeds Standard**

Students at the Exceeds Standard level in reading select from a variety of skills and strategies to enhance comprehension of text. Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Describe how tone and mood contribute to the overall effectiveness of text.
- Compare authors' arguments, viewpoints, and/or perspectives.

### **Meets Standard**

Students at the Meets Standard level in reading use skills and strategies to comprehend text. Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Explain the author's use of foreshadowing.
- Compare tone and mood between or within texts.
- Compare themes generated from a single topic.
- Explain an author's use of details to support an argument, viewpoint, and/or perspective.
- Explain the author's use of persuasive techniques: transfer appeal, unfinished claim, rhetorical question, loaded language, appeal to logic, and/or appeal to ethics.

### **Approaching Standard**

Students at the Approaching Standard level in reading demonstrate a literal understanding of text. Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Identify foreshadowing.
- Describe the tone and mood of a text.
- Explain a theme based on events and/or a character's actions.
- Identify an author's argument, viewpoint, and/or perspective using evidence.
- Identify persuasive techniques: transfer appeal, unfinished claim, loaded language, appeal to logic, and/or appeal to ethics.

### **Emergent/Developing**

Students at the Emergent/Developing level find the process of reading text challenging. Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Identify words and/or phrases that reveal the tone and mood of a text.
- Identify a theme.
- Identify rhetorical questions.

## **Grade 8 Science**

### **Exceeds Standard**

Students at the Exceeds Standard level in science demonstrate a more complete understanding of grade-level science content and the ability to use science process skills to conduct simple investigations. Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Conduct original experiments.
- Describe relationships among protons, neutrons, and electrons in an atom.
- Identify DNA as the site of genetic information.
- Describe relationships between structure and function in living systems.
- Develop a model to explain seasonal changes.
- Use plate tectonics to explain earthquakes and earth structures.

### **Meets Standard**

Students at the Meets Standard level in science demonstrate a basic understanding of grade-level science content and growing abilities to use science process skills to conduct investigations. Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Describe experimental procedures.
- Explain the basic structure of the periodic table.
- Describe that genetic information moves between generations.
- Identify basic cell structures.
- Describe the processes of the water cycle.
- Describe the causes of seasons.

### **Approaching Standard**

Students at the Approaching Standard level in science demonstrate a developing understanding of grade-level content and growing confidence using science process skills. Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Incompletely explain models.
- Recognize specific groups of elements on the periodic table.
- Recognize that offspring usually resemble their parents.
- Describe simple ideas in life science (e.g., cells, food webs).
- Identify the basic components of the water cycle.
- Name some parts of the solar system.

### **Emergent/Developing**

Students at the Emergent/Developing level find science to be challenging. Students working at this achievement level exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Identify simple models.
- Recognize a few common elements on the periodic table.
- Recall that parents and offspring usually share characteristics.
- Recall that both living and nonliving systems are made up of parts.
- Match some weather patterns with seasons.
- Name some common Earth structures.